STATES OF LINE

JUL - 8 1997

UNITED STATES ARTMENT OF COMMERCI Patent and Trademark Office
ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231



Ronald L. Wilson, Director Health Assessment Policy Staff Office of Health Affairs (HFY-20) Food and Drug Administration 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 15-22 Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The attached application for patent term extension of U.S. Patent No. 4,427,663 was filed on June 12, 1997, under 35 U.S.C. § 156. U.S. Patent No. 4,427,663 issued on January 24, 1984 from an application that was filed on March 16, 1982. Accordingly, the original expiration date of the patent is March 16, 2002.

The assistance of your Office is requested in confirming that the product identified in the application, IVOMEC®EPRINEXTM Pour-On for Beef and Dairy Cattle, has been subject to a regulatory review period within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 156(g) before its first commercial marketing or use and that the application for patent term extension was filed within the sixty-day period after the product was approved. Since a determination has not been made whether the patent in question claims a product which has been subject to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, this communication is NOT to be considered as notice which may be made in the future pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(2)(A).

Our review of the application to date indicates that the subject patent would be eligible for extension of the patent term under 35 U.S.C. § 156.

Telephone inquiries regarding this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (703) 306-3159.

Karin Tyson Legal Advisor

Special Program Law Office

Office of the Deputy Assistant Commissioner

for Patent Policy and Projects

cc: Mollie M. Yang

Merck & Co., Inc.

PO Box 2000

RAHWAY NJ 07065-0907